Damage to FCI stock

899. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 22,400 tonnes of FCI stock were damaged as on 1st July, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to reimburse Rs. 194.39 crores as claim of Punjab Government for spoilt grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A quantity of 26,395 MT of damaged foodgrains was available with the FCI as on 1st July, 2004.

(b) The foodgrains stored in the FCI's godowns got damaged due to natural calamities such as unprecedented rains, floods, cyclones, ballooning of covers, prolonged storage etc.

(c) The Government of Punjab has been asked to furnish the relevant details of the damaged wheat to the FCI with documentary evidence.

Loss of foodgrains

900. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a loss of Rs. 939.28 crore worth of foodgrains between 1999 and 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that of this Rs. 493.70 crores were losses during trainsit and Rs. 445.58 crores were losses due to storage; and

(c) the details of action plan to control such avoidable huge loss in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The storage and transit shortages reported by FCI between 1999 and 2002 were to the tune of Rs. 938.28 crore.

(b) The transit losses and storage losses during the above period were Rs. 492.70 crore and Rs. 445.58 crore respectively.

(c) The details given in the statement.

Statement

Steps taken to minimize the storage and transit losses

(a) Adoption of 50 Kg. Packing in a phased manner to avoid use of hooks.

(b) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(c) Encouraging double line machine stitching of bags.

(d) Periodical prophylactic and creative treatment of stocks as prescribed.

(e) To streamline procedure and documentation for transparency and accountability in operations at each level.

(f) Special squad checking at selected rail head transhipment and destination/dispatch centres.

(g) Identification of vulnerable points.

(h) Speed up of write off cases and fixation of responsibility after undertaking investigation and recovery of losses wherever called for after following the prescribed procedures as per Staff Regulations.

(i) Inspection of depots by Senior Officers of headquarters, Zonal Managers/Senior Regional Manager/District Managers.

(j) Inspection and calibration of weighbridges.

(k) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

(l) Two tier system of audit *i.e.* Internal and CAG.

(m) Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO (First in first Out) principles.

(n) Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

(o) Undertaking pre monsoon fumigation.

(p) Improvement in dunnage material.